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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION FROM

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SOURCE

Periodical and newspapers as indicated.

REPORTS ON GEORGIAN SSR MANGANESE AND FERROALLOYS INDUSTRIES; SCORES TRANSCAUCASUS METALLURGICAL PLANT

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

Among the most important branches of industry in the Georgian SSR are the manganese and ferroalloys industries. The Chiatura manganese mines represent the largest manganese reserves in the world and the ore is of a high-grade quality. The mines are now equipped with modern machinery. Concentration plants has been built around the mines and a town has developed in this location. Many Soviet metallurgical plants are now being supplied with Chiatura

As compared with 1940, commodity production of manganese in the Georgian SSR increased 27 percent in 1950 and the Chiatura miners have exceeded their plans every year.(2)

Georgia also produces various ferroalloys, including ferromanganese, ferrosilicon, manganese silicon, ferromolybdenum, ferrochrome, and others. These are produced at the Zestafoni Electric Ferroalloy Plant, built during the first Five-Year Plan. The Zestafoni plant has also mastered the production of metallic manganese by the electrolytic method. (1)

The new methods of producing manganese alloys introduced at the Zestafoni Ferroalloy Plant have resulted in considerable technical and economic improvements. By using the new tachniques, consumption of electric power for each melt of manganese alloys has been reduced 20 percent. This gives a yearly saving of one million kilowatt-hours. At the same time, furnace productivity has increased 20 percent and the yearly saving of manganese ore amounts to thousands of tons. The quality of products has improved and production costs have been lowered. As a result, the plant saved over 7 million rubles in 1950.(3)

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A good example of the joint economic efforts of Georgia and Azerbaydzhan is the construction of the Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant, which is to operate with a complete metallurgical production cycle. Construction of this plant began before the war. Its location in Georgia, in the center of the Transcaucasus, makes it most convenient for the distribution of its products among the three adjoining republics. Iron ore is supplied from the Dashkesan deposit of the Azerbaydzhan SSR and coal from the Tkvarcheli and Tkibuli coal mines of Georgia. The Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant is making higher demands on the Georgian coal industry with regard to the volume of coal output and the quality of coal, i.e., coking ability and minimum ash content.(1)

The Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant began to operate during April 1950, when the first open hearth furnace was put into operation. The first blooming mill began operating several months later. During 1950, the plant smelted thousands of tons of steel and began the production of rolled steel.(4)

After all construction work has been finished, the plant is to produce pig iron, coke, and pipes for the Azerbaydzhan petroleum industry. (5) In addition, the plant is to produce roofing iron, wire and rolled sections for construction and for machine tilding plants of the three Transcaucasian republics. The production of ferrous metal in Georgia has formed the basis for further industrialization of the neighboring republics. (1)

The open-hearth shop and the blooming shop are the leading shops of the plant. Several months ago, while still in the period of organization, the open-hearth shop was completing only 80 percent of its plan, whereas now the plan is being fulfilled 100 or 110 percent (h) A new open-hearth furnace was put into operation at the plant on 24 February (5)

There are still shortcomings in the work of the open-hearth and blooming shops. The technical training of the workers is poorly organized. There are still losses of m tal in pouring, or cases where steel remains in the furnaces too long. Charging of furnaces sometimes takes longer than necessary. Heads of shops or shifts are not always present when a melt is completed. The work area is cluttered with scrap and useless equipment. Cooperation between various shop divisions is not always well organized. Machinery is still too frequently idle because of the absence of a repair schedule. Socialist competition has not yet fully developed between brigades and individuals, and individual production records are not made known to all the workers of the shop. There is no close cooperation between the open-hearth and the rolling shops. (1)

SOURCES

- 1. Moscow, Voprosy Ekonomiki, No 3, Mar 51
- 2. Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 22 Feb 51
- 3. Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 24 Mar 51
- 4. Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 31 Mar 51
- 5. Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 25 Feb 51

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